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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/128 on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly considered the report of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1/ held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, and adopted resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994 on the report. In paragraph 35 of that resolution, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly put forth a number of requests addressed not only to the Secretary-General but also to the Council, the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system, the governing body of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Population Commission, which it decided to rename the Commission on Population and Development. More specifically, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consult with the various bodies of the United Nations system, as well as with international financial institutions and various bilateral aid organizations and agencies, with a view to promoting an exchange of information among them on the requirements for international assistance, reviewing on a regular basis the specific needs of countries in the field of population and development and maximizing the availability of resources and their most effective utilization. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare periodic reports for the substantive sessions of the Council on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference 2/ and to promote the exchange of information on the requirements for international assistance among the members of the donor community; and requested the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action and to take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation, and invited them to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1995 for coordination purposes and to the Assembly at its fiftieth session for policy implications. It decided that the Assembly, the Council and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action and, to that end, decided that the Assembly would organize a regular review of the Programme of Action, that the Council, in assisting the Assembly, would promote an integrated approach, provide system-wide coordination and guidance in the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action and make recommendations thereon, and that the Commission would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

3. The General Assembly recommended that the Council review, at its substantive session of 1995, the Commission's terms of reference and mandate. It also recommended that the Council, pursuant to the decisions made on the terms of reference and enhanced mandate of the revitalized Commission, should consider at its substantive session of 1995 the composition of the Commission, in order to ensure that the Commission fully fulfilled its functions. The Assembly requested the Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to consider

(a) the establishment of a separate executive board of UNFPA; (b) the submission of recommendations to the Secretary-General concerning secretariat support and coordination arrangements for the United Nations system; and (c) the submission of recommendations to the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an appropriate inter-agency coordination, collaboration and harmonization mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. The General Assembly also requested the Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to review the reporting procedures within the United Nations system regarding population and development issues, including a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, in order to ensure full support for its implementation, bearing in mind the reporting procedures for all United Nations conferences in the economic and social field; and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, to prepare a report on institutional follow-up issues and reporting procedures in the United Nations system, to be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1995. The Assembly requested the Council to discuss the relevant matters concerning the implementation of population and development programmes, as well as matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and collaboration within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action and to discuss the reports submitted by the different bodies and organs on various matters related to the Programme of Action. The Assembly invited the governing body of UNFPA to oversee, on a regular basis, the response of the Fund to the needs of countries regarding activities to strengthen national population and development programmes and to report to the Council on that matter. The Assembly also requested the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, to review, within its area of competence, the Programme of Action and its implications and to transmit its views to the Council at its substantive session of 1995.

5. The present report highlights the various activities that have been undertaken in implementing the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 49/128 and responds to the specific mandate contained in paragraph 35 of the resolution (see para. 1 above). It was felt that a single report, consolidating not only the requests addressed to the Secretary-General but also background material on action taken at the intergovernmental level in furtherance of the resolution, should be presented to assist Member States in their deliberations. With a view to providing the requisite information in an organized manner, the report is divided into five sections, devoted to (a) the question of requirements for international assistance and flow of financial resources for assisting the implementation of the Programme of Action; (b) institutional follow-up issues and reporting procedures; (c) implementation by the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system; (d) implementation by the governing body of UNFPA and (e) implementation by the Commission.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND FLOW OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR ASSISTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

A. Consultation

6. In paragraph 16 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consult with the various bodies of the United Nations system, as well as with international financial institutions and various bilateral aid organizations and agencies, with a view to promoting an exchange of information among them on the requirements for international assistance, reviewing on a regular basis the specific needs of countries in the field of population and development and maximizing the availability of resources and their most effective utilization.

7. The Programme of Action spells out, in paragraph 13.15, 2/ the amount of resources needed to implement population and development programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The total costs of the "population package" in the Programme of Action are estimated to be (in 1993 United States dollars): $17.0 billion in 2000, $18.5 billion in 2005, $20.5 billion in 2010 and $21.7 billion in 2015. It is tentatively estimated that up to two thirds of the costs will continue to be met by the countries themselves and one third will come from external sources. However, the least developed countries and other low-income developing countries will require a greater share of external resources on a concessional and grant basis (para. 13.16 of the Programme of Action). Assuming that recipient countries will be able to generate sufficient domestic resources, the need for complementary resource flows from donor countries and international financial institutions would be in the order of (in 1993 United States dollars): $5.7 billion in 2000; $6.1 billion in 2005; $6.8 billion in 2010; and $7.2 billion in 2015.

8. In response to paragraph 16.28 of the Programme of Action, 2/ and in conformity with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 49/128, the Secretary-General requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to convene a consultation on the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The first consultation on resource mobilization took place on 20 January 1995. Representatives from various multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, as well as the World Bank and several regional financial institutions, participated in the consultation.

9. The participants discussed the usefulness of high-level meetings in the mobilization of resources. The participants suggested using existing mechanisms at the country level, such as the Resident Coordinator system, the World Bank consultative groups and the round tables of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for the purpose of mobilizing country-specific resources. It was agreed that global consultations on the topic needed to be convened periodically, preferably at the time of the annual sessions of the Commission on Population and Development.

10. The purpose of these follow-up consultations is to review, based on reports to be prepared for the annual session of the Commission, the flow of financial

resources and the resource requirements for the implementation of the Programme of Action. Country needs assessments could identify countries' priorities and resource needs. These needs could then be discussed during high-level consultations. The assessment of needs will be mainly carried out by using existing tools, such as the reports of the UNFPA Programme Review and Strategy Development exercise, as well as the annual report on the flow of financial resources for population and development programmes to be prepared for the annual sessions of the Commission (see paras. 41 and 43 below) and other relevant reports issued by the various multilateral agencies and organizations.

B. Reporting on resources

11. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare periodic reports for the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action and to promote the exchange of information on the requirements for international assistance among the members of the donor community.

12. Since 1986, UNFPA has prepared biennial reports for the Commission on Population and Development on multilateral population assistance. Such reports provided information on resources made available by the various agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to population activities. For the twenty-eighth session of the Commission held from 21 February to 2 March 1995, UNFPA submitted a report entitled "Review of Population Trends, Policies and Programmes: Monitoring of Multilateral Population Assistance", 3/ in which it described the trends in multilateral population assistance and highlighted the substantive areas where such assistance was used. It further reviewed operational measures within the United Nations system for channelling assistance to developing countries.

13. Pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 49/128, and in view of the increasing need for information on the allocation of domestic resources, UNFPA proposes to replace these reports by an annual report on the amount of financial resources allocated for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national and international levels. Such reports would provide information in three different areas: (a) the allocation of domestic resources for population and development programmes; (b) the amount of international assistance in the field of population and development; and (c) an assessment of the country-specific needs in terms of financial assistance.

14. UNFPA has currently in place a system to monitor the amount of international assistance for programmes dealing with population and development. Where necessary, this system will be further refined and improved. Data on the allocation of domestic resources for population and development programmes are currently not available on a regular basis. Therefore, UNFPA proposes to develop a system for monitoring and assessing the mobilization of domestic resources. Such a system would also facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of paragraph 7 of resolution 49/128, in which the General Assembly urged all countries to consider their current spending priorities with a view to making additional contributions for the implementation of the

Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them.

III. INSTITUTIONAL FOLLOW-UP ISSUES AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

15. The present chapter responds to the provisions of paragraph 30 of resolution 49/128, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, to prepare a report on institutional follow-up issues and reporting procedures in the United Nations system, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995. It also includes observations on the requests contained in paragraphs 26 to 29 and 31 of resolution 49/128.

A. Commission on Population and Development

16. In paragraph 26 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly recommended that the Economic and Social Council review, at its substantive session of 1995, the Commission's terms of reference and mandate so as to bring them fully into line with the provisions of paragraph 23 (c) of the resolution.

17. At its twenty-eighth session, from 21 February to 2 March 1995, the Commission held extensive discussions on its terms of reference and mandate and submitted its views on those issues to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 1995. In line with paragraph 23 (c) of General Assembly resolution 49/128, the Commission proposed that it assist the Council by monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels, identify reasons for successes and failure, and advise the Council thereon.

18. To that end, the Commission proposed adopting a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action. That work programme, inter alia, would provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action; monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action through periodic reports on population trends and policies, population programmes and population and related development activities; review on a regular basis the flow of financial resources and the funding mechanisms to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action; undertake a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and in implementing its recommendations, and reporting its findings to the Council; maintain and enhance public attention and support for the implementation of the Programme of Action, through the dissemination of its monitoring, review and assessment reports in a clear and concise format; consider the reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General to ensure coordination, collaboration and harmonization in the implementation of the Programme of Action; consider reports on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with the arrangements adopted by the Council for

consultation with those organizations; and provide appropriate recommendations to the Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

19. With regard to the topics to be included in the prioritized multi-year work programme, the Commission proposed, as a first theme for 1996, reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication. Themes for future years would include international migration, with special emphasis on the linkages between migration and development, and on gender issues and the family (1997); health and mortality, with special emphasis on the linkages between health and development, and on gender and age (1998); and population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education (1999). In addition, in 1999, the Commission would consider the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

20. In paragraph 27 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly recommended that the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to the decisions made on the terms of reference and enhanced mandate of the revitalized Commission, should consider at its substantive session of 1995 the composition of the Commission, in order to ensure that the Commission fully fulfilled its functions as provided in paragraph 23 of the resolution, taking into account the integrated, multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach of the Programme of Action, as well as the membership of the other functional commissions of the Council.

21. The Secretary-General would like in this context to underscore the importance of representatives to serve on the revitalized Commission possessing the necessary high qualifications and expertise.

B. Establishment of a separate Executive Board for the United Nations Population Fund

22. The International Conference on Population and Development addressed the issue of the governance of UNFPA. In paragraph 16.27 of its Programme of Action, the Conference invited the General Assembly to consider, at its forty-ninth session, in accordance with its resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, the establishment of a separate executive board for UNFPA. Over the past 25 years, the Assembly has twice taken decisions to improve the scope and quality of governance of UNFPA. In both instances, the Assembly referred to the level of the Fund's resources and the scope of its operations as factors contributing to those decisions.

23. In its first resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, the General Assembly, noting that the resources of UNFPA and its scope of operations had grown to a size which made its supervision by an intergovernmental body desirable, decided that the Governing Council of UNDP should be the governing body of UNFPA. In the second instance, resolution 34/104 of 14 December 1979, the Assembly, noting with satisfaction that UNFPA had become a fully viable entity within the United Nations system in the population field, owing in particular to its level of resources and its increasing assistance to the developing countries, invited the Governing Council of UNDP to consider devoting

a specific period of time during its sessions to adequate and separate consideration of items relating to UNFPA.

24. The General Assembly further addressed the issue of UNFPA governance in paragraph 21 of the annex to its resolution 48/162 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields, noting that the need for a separate executive board for UNFPA should be further considered in the light of the outcome of the Conference.

25. On 17 and 18 November 1994, while discussing the follow-up to the Conference, a number of Member States referred in their plenary statements in the General Assembly to the issue of a separate executive board for UNFPA (see A/49/PV.58-60). Some spoke in favour of establishing a separate executive board, since it could enable the Fund to fulfil better its important role and responsibility in the implementation of and follow-up to the Programme of Action, in the coordination of the follow-up to the Conference, and in the provision of the technical and financial assistance required to help developing countries meet their own population and development needs. It would also encourage the participation of population and development experts in the deliberations of the board. Others were not convinced of the necessity for a separate board, since they were of the view that the reforms on governance of the United Nations funds and programmes, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 48/162, had only been initiated recently. They, therefore, suggested that the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board should devote more time for consideration of UNFPA matters at its regular sessions. Several other Member States were of the opinion that the topic deserved serious consideration by the Assembly and that more study was needed on the subject. The Assembly, while discussing the report of the Conference, in turn, requested the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to consider the establishment of a separate executive board of UNFPA (resolution 49/128, para. 28 (a)).

26. In 1994, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board devoted five days to UNFPA items. For joint UNDP/UNFPA organizational matters, preparations and reporting, the Board spent an additional one-and-a-half days. During 1995, it is expected that the Board will take up UNFPA items for a total of approximately eight-and-a-half days, and two days for organizational matters and joint consideration of UNDP/UNFPA items. If a separate executive board were to be established for UNFPA, in the light of experience and in line with current practices of the existing Executive Boards, it would need an annual session of 4 to 5 days and three regular sessions of approximately 3 days each, bringing to 14 the annual total number of days needed for consideration of UNFPA matters. There would be some cost implications for servicing the meetings of a separate executive board for UNFPA, primarily for staff time and secretariat support related to the preparations for and convening of the meetings.

C. Secretariat support and coordination arrangements for the United Nations system

27. In paragraph 28 (b) of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to consider the submission of recommendations to the Secretary-General

concerning secretariat support and coordination arrangements for the United Nations system. In paragraph 28 (c), the Assembly requested the Council to consider the submission of recommendations to the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an appropriate inter-agency coordination, collaboration and harmonization mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

28. With respect to secretariat support, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the Secretariat, through its Population Division in particular, has been the focal point for the provision of integrated secretariat support to the Commission. In the past, this role has consisted of the provision of substantive support, the preparation of documentation and the coordination of relevant inputs. Effective substantive support for the work programme of the Commission has required the involvement of many organizations of the United Nations system, in particular UNFPA, and could only have been carried out on the basis of cooperative and coordinated relationships. At the same time, UNFPA has taken the lead in coordinating and implementing operational activities in this field. It is proposed that this basic pattern of work should continue with respect to provision of support for the Commission and implementation of the Programme of Action.

29. The Commission should continue to act as the governing body for the Population Division. A reassessment of priorities and internal organization of the Division in response to the Programme of Action is under way. Work in the Division will continue on basic population trends, the evolution of population policies, understanding links between population and development and on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections.

30. In line with paragraph 16.29 of the Programme of Action, the General Assembly requested, in paragraph 22 of its resolution 49/128, the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action and take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries, and invited them to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 for coordination purposes and to the Assembly at its fiftieth session for policy implications. Background material in this regard is contained in section IV of the present report. In addition, the Assembly stressed, in paragraph 20 of the same resolution, the importance of continued and enhanced cooperation and coordination by all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

31. The Administrator of UNDP, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, asked the Executive Director of UNFPA, who served as Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development, to convene and chair an Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the Programme of Action. The overall aim of the Task Force, which first met on 13 December 1994, is to develop a United Nations system-wide coordinated approach for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The following organizations were represented at the first meeting of the Task Force: the United Nations, including the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNICEF,

UNDP, UNFPA, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

32. The focus of the Task Force is on country-level cooperation, building on the Resident Coordinator system and arrangements already in place, such as the country strategy notes. In the first phase of its work, the Task Force has set up four working groups addressing specific topics/sectors. Each group is developing operational guidelines for use by the Resident Coordinators, which are to serve as tools to facilitate system-wide collaboration in the design, implementation and monitoring of country-level initiatives in specific areas. The task force modality will enable the forging of system-wide coordinated responses that draw on the comparative advantages of the agencies and organizations concerned. A second meeting of the Task Force is anticipated for June/July 1995, at which time it will review the progress made and further specify its programme of work, taking into account major topics of interest and themes identified in the relevant United Nations bodies, including in particular the themes identified by the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-eighth session.

33. During its first meeting, the Task Force decided to utilize the modality of working groups to develop proposals for inter-agency collaboration at the country level, in the first instance in the following four areas: (a) a common data system at the national level in the field of health, notably in the areas of infant, child and maternal mortality; (b) basic education, with special attention to gender disparities; (c) policy-related issues, including the drafting of a common advocacy statement on social issues; and (d) women's empowerment. It is envisaged that a fifth working group, on reproductive health, will be established in response to suggestions made by a number of United Nations agencies.

34. All four inter-agency working groups have met. The working group on basic education, with special attention to gender disparities, met on 7 March 1995 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris; the working group on a common data system at the national level in the field of health, notably in the areas of infant, child and maternal mortality, met on 4 May at UNICEF headquarters in New York; and the working group on women's empowerment, which met at the office of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in New York on 16 May. The working groups are all in the process of finalizing guidelines for use by Resident Coordinators to enhance country-level cooperation in these fields. The working group on policy-related issues met on 3 May and has drafted an advocacy statement for approval by the Task Force.

35. The Commission on Population and Development, in its report to the Economic and Social Council, 4/ requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Task Force be established on a permanent basis and be accountable through the Commission for system-wide coordination. It further suggested that intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions be invited to participate in the Conference monitoring and evaluation process to the maximum extent possible, as well as in

the Task Force. Furthermore, the Commission decided to consider the reports of the Task Force on an annual basis.

36. At its last session, in February 1995, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) adopted a statement welcoming the convening of an inter-agency mechanism, with UNFPA as the lead agency, with the objectives of policy development, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the United Nations system (see para. 31 above). ACC requested the inter-agency mechanism to work towards the development of a common framework for the system-wide follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and to report thereon, through the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions, to ACC at its second regular session in 1995.

37. In accordance with the Commission's decision, reports on the work of the Task Force will be submitted annually to the Commission. Such reports would review the progress and activities of the Task Force in ensuring system-wide collaboration in the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on the theme chosen by the Commission for that year. These reports should also identify any areas where collaboration has met with difficulties.

D. Reporting procedures within the United Nations system regarding population and development issues

38. In paragraph 29 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to review the reporting procedures within the United Nations system regarding population and development issues, including a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, in order to ensure full support for its implementation, bearing in mind the reporting procedures for all United Nations conferences in the economic and social field.

39. In paragraph 23 of the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/162, and a revitalized Population Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action, keeping in mind the need to develop a common framework for a coherent follow-up to United Nations summits and conferences.

40. In its report to the Council, 4/ the Commission on Population and Development recommended that the Commission should each year consider five reports covering different topics in the area of population and development and should every five years consider a review and appraisal report on the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

41. The reports which will be prepared annually are: world population monitoring; the report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes; the report of the Task Force for the implementation of the Programme

of Action; the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action; and the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In addition, a report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action will be prepared quinquennially.

42. The emphasis placed in paragraph 23 of resolution 49/128 on the need for a common framework for follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and other major international conferences in the economic and social sectors was warmly welcomed by ACC at its February 1995 session. ACC considered that a main objective in that regard should be to assist countries in the coordinated implementation and monitoring of the programmes of action adopted by those conferences. ACC noted that such a common framework should be designed to promote a coordinated response by the United Nations system to cross-cutting and interrelated recommendations emanating from those conferences, and should reduce the burden of reporting on countries as well as United Nations system organizations. A separate report on the coordinated follow-up to major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields is before the current session of the Economic and Social Council in document E/1995/86.

E. Matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and collaboration within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action

43. In paragraph 31 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council: (a) to discuss the relevant matters concerning the implementation of population and development programmes, as well as matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and collaboration within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action; and (b) and to discuss the reports submitted by the different bodies and organs on various matters related to the Programme of Action.

44. ACC reviewed the implications of the International Conference on Population and Development for the United Nations system at its first regular session of 1995 (28 February-1 March). The statement adopted by ACC in this context underscored the importance of shared responsibility within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the need for coordination among United Nations agencies and organizations at the country level, through the Resident Coordinator system and the country strategy notes, where they exist or are under preparation. ACC emphasized the need for the international community to assist interested Governments in organizing appropriate national-level follow-up, including national capacity-building for project formulation and programme management, as well as strengthening of coordination and evaluation mechanisms to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action.

45. ACC called upon all concerned organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen their partnerships with non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other major groups active in the population and

development field in order to maximize the impact of their programmes and projects at the country level. Other subjects covered by the ACC statement included, as noted above, the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force and the development of a common framework for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and other major international conferences in the economic and social sectors.

46. The enlarged scope of population activities and the introduction of new concepts delineated in the Programme of Action have brought to the fore the need to review the existing standard classification of population activities adopted by ACC in 1977. Accordingly, ACC recommended that the Task Force initiate the review on the basis of an updated classification to be prepared by UNFPA, and in consultation with other United Nations agencies and organizations concerned.

47. Collaborative action has been initiated by the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and UNFPA to establish the criteria and the methodology for updating the existing classification, in line with the concepts of the International Conference on Population and Development. As soon as work on this is finalized, the updated classification will be submitted to the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions for its review, and eventual submission to ACC at its second regular session of 1995.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ALL RELATED ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

48. In paragraph 22 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action and to take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries, and invited them to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 for coordination purposes and to the Assembly at its fiftieth session for policy implications.

49. Many organizations have already begun to delineate their role in the implementation of the Programme of Action and have submitted initial reports to sessions of their respective governing bodies which have taken place since the Conference.

50. The Executive Board of UNICEF requested, at its October 1994 session, that a report be submitted to it at its second regular session of 1995, in March, on the role of UNICEF in the follow-up to the Conference. In this report, 5/ UNICEF identified its priority areas in the follow-up to the Conference. It will focus on strengthening its own strategies, advocacy and programme interventions to promote the reproductive health of women and youth, specifically, by improving their access to essential and emergency obstetric care, promoting family planning and preventing sexually transmitted diseases, including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). UNICEF will also expand its efforts to provide universal access to basic education, improve gender equity and enhance the status of girls and women in society. These efforts will be carried out in close collaboration

with UNFPA and other organizations actively involved in these issues. The report was discussed during the March 1995 session of the UNICEF Executive Board, and, based on those discussions, a revised report will be submitted to the UNICEF Executive Board at its third regular session of 1995.

51. ILO prepared a report for the two hundred and sixty-first session of its Governing Body (November 1994), delineating its role in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Likewise, WHO, in a report submitted to the Executive Board at its ninety-fifth session (January 1995), detailed its plans, following the International Conference on Population and Development, inter alia, to develop a comprehensive strategy for research and action in sexual and reproductive health and noted that it would continue to exercise its normative and research roles in reproductive health.

52. In addition, WHO prepared a report, entitled "Reproductive Health: WHO's Role in a Global Strategy", for submission to the World Health Assembly at its forty-eighth session (May 1995), in which it delineated its role in the global strategy on reproductive health. The strategy of WHO in this field will focus on four broad interrelated areas: (a) international and national advocacy for the concept of reproductive health and for the policies and programmes promoted by WHO; (b) research aimed at assessing needs, at adapting and applying existing knowledge and at developing new approaches and interventions as well as the coordination of global efforts in these areas; (c) normative functions, including policy development, strategic approaches, norms, standards and guidelines; and (d) providing technical support to Member States and others in formulating, implementing and evaluating comprehensive national reproductive health policies and programmes.

53. FAO presented a document on collaboration within the United Nations system and with other organizations (CL/108/17) to the FAO Council at its one hundred and eighth session (5-16 June 1995), in which it outlined its plans for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. FAO considers the following areas of concern as important in its implementation of the Programme of Action: the interrelationships between population and natural resources; the food/population balance at regional, subregional and national levels; gender concerns; the role of environmental and socio-economic factors in rural migration patterns and their impact on sustainable development; and improving the collection, analysis and use of data on population depending on agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

54. The effective integration of population concerns into FAO's activities in agriculture will be one of the main goals in the coming years. Other steps proposed to the FAO Council are: revision of the long- and medium-term plans for 1994-2001 specifically to integrate population issues into the cross-sectoral priorities and programmes regarding environment and sustainable development, people and development, poverty alleviation and nutrition and food security; participation in efforts to mobilize and allocate resources for implementation of the Programme of Action; and the sensitizing and training of regional and subregional offices and FAO representatives on the integration of population concerns in the formulation of FAO programmes and projects.

55. The Programme of Action contains several provisions that correspond to priority areas for UNESCO's work. Education was identified in the Programme as the crucial factor for development and for social and demographic change. In responding to the results of the Conference and in line with General Assembly resolution 49/128, UNESCO has included in its draft medium-term strategy for 1996-2001 and in its draft programme and budget for 1996-1997, which are being submitted to the organization's General Conference at its forthcoming twenty-eighth session (October-November 1995), activities in follow-up to the Programme of Action, in particular in the areas of education, especially for girls and women; the empowerment of women; the relationship between population, development and the environment; population information, education and communication; educational and socio-cultural aspects of migration.

56. The transdisciplinary project Environment and Population Education and Information for Human Development launched by UNESCO in 1994 is developing an integrated approach to education, training and information activities designed to deal with the interwoven issues of population, environment and development, including gender issues.

57. As lead agency of the Inter-Agency Task Force's working group dealing with basic education, with special attention to gender disparities, UNESCO convened a first meeting, with the participation of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, FAO, WHO and the World Bank, at UNESCO headquarters in March 1995. UNESCO also participated in meetings of the other working groups and will continue to cooperate fully with its partner organizations at the inter-agency and at the country level.

58. During the discussion of the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development in ACC, the World Bank reiterated its commitment to Conference goals and its readiness to participate actively in coordinated follow-up, particularly with regard to the mobilization of resources in support of the Programme of Action, and efforts to operationalize the reproductive health approach in population programmes. The Bank itself would focus on the demographic transition in the poorest countries: linking population more effectively to core development goals, particularly those that empower women; and expanding assistance beyond family planning to a wider range of reproductive-health goals and the education of women and girls.

59. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis prepared a report on its proposed future work programme for consideration by the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-eighth session. The Commission proposed that the Division continue to carry out research and analytical studies on population and development issues in line with the recommendations of the Programme of Action but with further emphasis on areas such as reproductive rights and reproductive health and international migration.

60. UNFPA has embarked on a number of technical reviews and consultations following the International Conference on Population and Development. The Geographical Divisions of UNFPA convened regional consultations to identify regional needs and priorities in the follow-up to the Conference. UNFPA is in the process of reviewing all its country programmes to align them more closely

with the basic principles of the Programme of Action. UNFPA is revising the existing policy guidelines in the areas of reproductive health and family planning; information, education and communication; gender, population and development; population and sustainable development; and the collaboration with the non-governmental sector.

61. With regard to the area of reproductive health, UNFPA convened an "Expert Consultation on Reproductive Health and Family Planning: Directions for UNFPA Assistance" in early December 1994. Discussions addressed the problem of defining the basic components and scope of reproductive health care. In addition, a consultative meeting on a global framework for the assessment and monitoring of reproductive health was held at UNFPA headquarters from 3 to 5 April 1995. The participants discussed the feasibility of setting up of a global initiative to develop indicators for monitoring and evaluating reproductive health programmes. They recommended, inter alia, that such a global framework should confine its activities to those leading to the development of guidelines for monitoring reproductive health, clearer and standardized definitions of the different concepts of reproductive health, and manuals on methodologies.

62. As part of the process of translating the concept of reproductive health into effective programmes at the country level, UNFPA convened a workshop on reproductive health for technical advisers of the UNFPA Technical Support Services/Country Support Team system. The workshop was held at WHO headquarters in Geneva. The Division of Family Health of WHO provided an overview of the framework of WHO for translating the concept of reproductive health into action. Specialists from the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Population Council and the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands served as resource persons.

63. UNFPA further organized a workshop for Technical Support Services/Country Support Team specialists in population information, education and communication at UNESCO headquarters in October 1994. The purpose of the workshop was to brief the specialists on the latest approaches to information, education and communication and population education, based on the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development. Furthermore, a joint ILO/UNFPA workshop for UNFPA Country Support Team advisers, which was held from 26 October to 2 November 1994, discussed the role of the UNFPA Technical Support Services/Country Support Team system in the successful implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, particularly in the area of population policies and development strategies.

64. UNFPA established an internal task force on International Conference on Population and Development implementation, inter alia, to plan and support follow-up activities at various levels. In the initial phase of its work programme, the task force has been concerned with inter-agency follow-up and coordination, as well as monitoring intergovernmental initiatives in the aftermath of the Conference. The task force further provides secretariat support to the Executive Director of UNFPA in the tasks urdertaken by UNFPA related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

65. In 1987, UNFPA had set up a Panel on Women, Population and Development composed of experts in the field of women and development, to advise the Fund on different aspects of its policy in this area. On 5 and 6 April 1995, the panel, which was renamed the Panel on Gender, Population and Development, met for the fifth time to discuss the future direction of UNFPA in the area of gender and population, taking into account the outcome of the Conference. Furthermore, UNFPA decided to establish a non-governmental organization advisory committee to advise the Fund on various aspects of its policies and programming, since the successful implementation of the Programme of Action will to a large extent depend on an expanded role for the non-governmental organization community. The first meeting of this committee was held on 12 and 13 April at UNFPA headquarters. The participants recommended, inter alia, that UNFPA strengthen its partnerships with the non-governmental and private sector at the country level and use its position as a convener to bring Governments and non-governmental organizations together in their common efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

V. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

66. The present section responds to the provisions of paragraph 32 of resolution 49/128, wherein the General Assembly invited the governing body of UNFPA to oversee, on a regular basis, the response of the Fund to the needs of countries regarding activities to strengthen national population and development programmes, including the specific requests from developing countries for assistance in the preparation of national reports, within its area of competence, and to report to the Economic and Social Council on the matter.

67. The UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board met twice, from 6 to 10 October 1994 and from 10 to 13 January 1995, to discuss, inter alia, the follow-up to the Conference. At the October 1994 session, UNFPA explained the initiatives it had taken immediately after the Conference. The Board welcomed the immediate and positive steps UNFPA had taken in line with the Programme of Action. The Board members emphasized the importance of enhanced coordination among United Nations agencies and organizations.

68. At the January 1995 session of the Executive Board, UNFPA presented an interim report, in which it outlined, in a preliminary manner, its programme directions in the light of the Conference. 6/ Based on the comments received in the Board and on further consultations with its United Nations system partners and informal consultations with members of the Board, the Fund will present to the annual meeting of the Board (June 1995), a report on the programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in the light of the Conference. 7/

69. In its report to the Executive Board, UNFPA proposes to concentrate its future funding in three core areas: (a) reproductive health and family planning; (b) population policy; and (c) advocacy. The selection of these three programme areas will enable UNFPA to sharpen the strategic focus of its programming and to capitalize on its comparative advantage and experience in the field of population and development. Within each programme area, support will be given for research, training, awareness creation and information

dissemination. The Conference recognized that there could be no sustainable development without the full and equal participation of women, gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women. Gender concerns will, therefore, be integral components of all aspects of UNFPA programming and will be factored into all activities undertaken in the three core areas as a cross-cutting dimension.

70. Based on the advice provided by the Executive Board, UNFPA will implement programmes in the above-mentioned three core areas at the country, regional and interregional levels. In all of its programming, UNFPA will work closely with Governments to assure that activities are tailored to their specific needs; build partnerships with implementing agencies, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector; and expand coordination with relevant United Nations funds, programmes and organizations. The overall aim is to build national capacity in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national population and development programmes. Priority will be given to those inputs that enhance national capacity and promote self-reliance for the achievement of sustainable development.

71. Inevitably, these programmatic orientations will also have implications for the allocation of resources. UNFPA will, therefore, develop a strategy for future allocations of its limited resources to help build capacities in developing countries to implement the Programme of Action, based on different levels of financial needs for multilateral assistance and the level of achievement with regard to quantitative goals of the Conference.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

72. In paragraph 34 of its resolution 49/128, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Population and Development, at its twenty-eighth session, to review, within its area of competence the Programme of Action and its implications and to transmit its views to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995.

73. The Council will have before it the report of the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, 21 February-2 March 1995. As requested in the resolution, the Commission reviewed, within its area of competence, the Programme of Action and its implications and transmitted its views to the Council for consideration at its substantive session in 1995.

74. As indicated in its report, the Commission examined the terms of reference, mandate and programme of work of the Commission. In addition to the new mandate related to the monitoring, reviewing and assessing of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Commission proposed that it assist the Council by arranging for studies and advising the Council on population issues and trends, including the determinants and consequences of these trends; integrating population and development strategies; population and related development policies and programmes; provision of population assistance, upon request, to developing countries and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition; and any other population and development questions on which either

the principal or subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies might seek advice.

75. The Commission, acting as the governing body of the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, reviewed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997. As noted above, the biennial programme of work recommended to the Commission was generally found to correspond to the priorities established in the Programme of Action of the Conference. In addition, the Commission underlined the need for the work programme to take fully into account the outcomes of other United Nations conferences and summit meetings.

Notes

1/ A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1.

2/ A/CONF/171/13, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

3/ E/CN.9/1995/3.

4/ E/CN.9/1995/L.3/Add.1.

5/ E/ICEF/1995/12.

6/ DP/1995/8.

7/ DP/1995/25.